

Are you



2001

Hazardous Weather Prep Guide



a Quick Reference guide to help you prepare
for Kentucky's weather dangers

Kentucky
Broadcasters Association



Prepared by the Kentucky Severe Storms Preparedness Committee
in conjunction with the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management



being **StormReady** @ home

► **Be prepared!**

Know the safest place in your home and designate it as your “Safe Space”. Don’t wait for a storm’s arrival to do this.

► **Know the danger signs**

When a **WATCH** is issued, go about your business but check on changing weather conditions about every 15-30 minutes.

When a **WARNING** is issued for your area, go to your Safe Space immediately! Stay away from outside walls, windows and doors. Cover your head and neck with your hands.

► **Know where to go**

Going underground for shelter is best, such as a basement. If you have no basement, go to the center-most room on the lowest level of your home. This might be a bathroom, closet or interior hallway. In mobile homes, you are advised to leave it and find a more secure shelter or lie flat in a ditch until the danger passes. *

*For more helpful tips to stay safe in a mobile home, refer to the FEMA and KMHC information in the back of this booklet.

In multi-level or high rise buildings, go to the smallest center room or hallway away from glass windows and open areas.

✦ **STORM SURVIVAL TIP**

You should designate a “Safe Space” in your home long before storms threaten. Include these items in your shelter:

Flashlight

First Aid Kit

Batteries

Gloves

Battery operated radio

Extra shoes

Cell phone

Drinking water

Emergency phone numbers

Non-perishable food



being **StormReady** @ school

▶ Watch for changing weather

Monitor impending severe weather with a NOAA weather radio that is equipped with a tone alert siren. This will serve to warn school administrators quickly if a severe weather warning is issued for your district.

▶ Know the “Safe Spots” in your school

New Kentucky law (amendment to KRS 158.163 School Safety) requires all schools to designate a “safe area” for students and faculty to seek shelter from the storm. These areas must be clearly marked and easily accessible in the event of a weather emergency. Tornado drills must now be exercised twice during the school year.

- ✓ ***The safest areas in your school are likely to include main hallways away from windows and outside doors. Students should kneel down, face the wall and cover their heads and necks with their hands.***

▶ The safest place is “in” the school

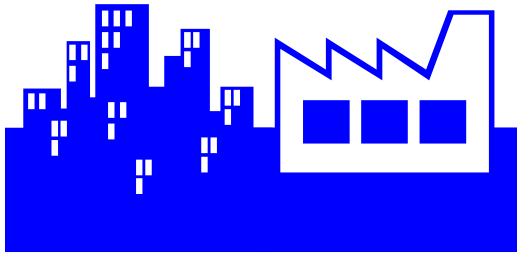
If school is about to dismiss and severe weather is occurring or is about to strike, it's best to hold all students until the danger passes. One of the most dangerous places to be in severe weather is in a school bus or automobile.

✦ **STORM SURVIVAL TIP**

When severe weather approaches, stay away from these areas:

Gymnasium
Auditorium

Large span rooms
Classrooms with windows



being **StormReady** @ work

► **Check the weather early!**

It's always a good idea to check your local forecast before leaving for work each day. Whatever your source...TV, radio, NOAA weather radio, internet or newspaper, one or more of these sources should give you ample "heads-up" of possible severe weather that day.

► **Know the "Safe Spots" in your workplace**

Most workplaces have designated storm shelters that are clearly marked. If not, contact your manager or supervisor to discuss developing a severe weather procedure for all of your fellow employees.

When severe weather strikes, avoid wide open spanned buildings and warehouses. Locate the smallest possible room nearest to you and get under something sturdy. Stay away from any outside walls, windows and doors...especially large bay doors and loading docks.

It's also a good idea for someone to monitor the progress of impending severe weather through media, internet or by a NOAA weather radio with a tone alert siren.



STORM SURVIVAL TIP

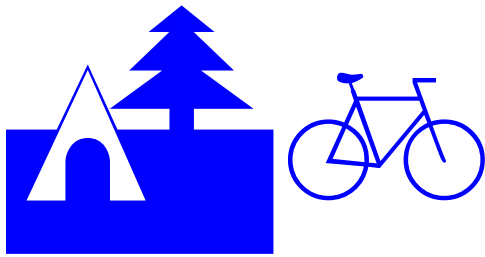
While at work and severe weather approaches, always...

move to the lowest floor level

find the center-most room

stay away from outside windows

prepare for power failure



being **StormReady** @ play

► **Always watch the skies!**

It's up to each one of us to closely monitor changing weather while enjoying the great outdoors. Keep a battery powered radio with you at all times and listen for severe weather threats in your area.

Don't wait for the storm to hit...check on the latest forecast as soon as you see dark skies approaching!

When storm clouds loom overhead, make sure any outdoor games are postponed and everyone is moved to a secure shelter. Put down golf clubs and any metal objects.

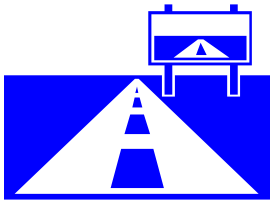
► **What if you're caught outside?**

Thunder is the sound lightning makes, so even though you may not have seen a flash, there was lightning and it can strike at long distances. Keep away from metal buildings, trees, fences and water. These are all attractive to lightning. Hurry to the nearest indoor shelter.



STORM SURVIVAL TIP

Lightning is one of nature's worst killers. If you're caught in the open and you cannot seek shelter from lightning, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet...place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Do not lie down! Make yourself the smallest target possible. In Flash Floods, never attempt to cross flooded roadways. Most deaths from flooding are caused when vehicles are washed away by raging flood waters.



being **StormReady** @ the wheel

► **Never try to outrun the storm!**

Storms are best survived in a secure shelter, but can also be survived in an automobile by following some practical guidelines. While traveling, always check the latest weather conditions by radio. If you know you're about to approach severe storms, find the safest route around the weather if you can.

If you should happen to approach a tornado or one is approaching you, stop your vehicle immediately...get out of it...and find a ditch or a substantial building for shelter.

► **Always in control**

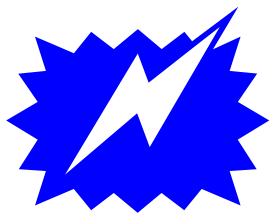
Severe storms, tornadoes, flash flooding and intense straight line winds can cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Always hold the steering wheel at the "10 and 2" o'clock positions. If there have been heavy rains, be aware of hydroplaning on rain slick highways.

Watch out for fallen debris from severe storms such as trees and power lines. Never attempt to cross flooded roadways... even if you feel you know how deep it is. Your vehicle could stall and you might become trapped inside.



STORM SURVIVAL TIP

Keep a storm survival kit in your vehicle at all times. Items such as a First Aid kit, flashlight, blankets, ice melting solution and tools should always be stored in your car for weather emergencies. Having cellular phone access adds security and will aid you in reaching help quickly by dialing 911.



2000 **Severe Weather** Statistics

provided by National Weather Service Offices in the Kentucky Region

<u>SEVERE WEATHER</u>	<u>INJURIES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
Tornadoes	46	0
Severe T/Storms	2	2
Lightning	3	5
Floods	2	1
2000 totals.....	53	9

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

Tornadoes	19
Severe T/Storms	612
Floods	148

2000 SIGNIFICANT SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

January 3-an F3 tornado hits Owensboro causing considerable damage to the main shopping district and Kentucky Wesleyan College.

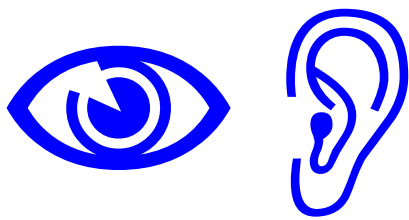
February 18-a 15 year old boy in Madison County dies when the car he's riding in is overtaken by flood waters.

May 23-16 people are injured when an F3 tornado touches down in Leitchfield (Grayson County).

May 26-4 people injured in two separate mobile homes by an F2 tornado in Calloway County.

June 27-30 year old man struck and killed by lightning while jogging in Glasgow (Barren County).

August 8-A family of three in Rowan County was struck by lightning. The father died while his infant daughter and wife were injured.



Understanding **Early Warning**

WATCH-means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop soon in your area. Go about your business, but continue to monitor the changing weather every 15-30 minutes. Have a plan of action ready in case a warning is issued.

WARNING-means severe weather has been detected or sighted in your area. **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

WAYS TO MONITOR FOR SEVERE WEATHER:

Local television channels

Local radio stations

NOAA Weather Radios with
tone alert siren

Internet-Weather web sites

Outdoor warning sirens*

Personal pagers/cell phones**

✓ NOAA Weather Radios are best for instant information about severe weather watches and warnings in your area. These specially equipped radios pick up only broadcasts from your area's National Weather Service Office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In severe weather situations, your NOAA Weather Radio will sound an alarm anytime severe weather threatens if it is equipped with a Tone Alert Siren. Much newer models are capable of warning you only if the severe weather is expected to reach your specific county. Ask your local electronics retailer about "S.A.M.E." (Specific Area Message Encoding) model radios. They can also help program your radio before you leave the store.

*not available in all communities **not all pagers and/or cell phones are capable to receive text messages. Check your local wireless company for details.



Preparing for the **Tornado drill**

THE KENTUCKY STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL
Tuesday, March 27, 2001

The statewide tornado drill is one of the most important exercises one may ever participate in. Schools, government offices, the media, local emergency services and citizens all across Kentucky will act as if an actual tornado is headed for their location. The drill gives everyone an opportunity to check preparedness plans and to know where their “Safe Spot” is.

► **What you can do to prepare**

- 1) Mark the date, Tuesday, March 27th on your calendar as “Tornado Drill Day”.
- 2) Before drill day, know the “Safe Spots” in your home, at work and school.
- 3) On Tuesday, March 27th, you will be notified either by NOAA weather radio with tone alert siren, by radio or TV, by outdoor warning siren or by school administrators or employers that the drill is being conducted.
- 4) After the drill is over, check your preparedness plan to see if it was effective. How long did it take to get to your designated “Safe Spot”? Did you receive ample warning? Are all members of your party/family accounted for?

✓ ***Whether a drill or actual emergency...stay calm!***



For more **information**

THE KENTUCKY SEVERE STORMS PREPAREDNESS WEBSITE

<http://kyem.dma.state.ky.us>

or call 1-800-255-2587

Download severe weather information provided in this guide and learn more about disaster preparedness

► **Information on the web**

THE KENTUCKY MANUFACTURED HOME INSTITUTE WEBSITE

<http://www.kymanufhome.com>

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

<http://www.fema.gov>

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

<http://www.redcross.org>

► **Information by mail**

THE KENTUCKY MANUFACTURED HOME INSTITUTE
2170 US HWY 127 SOUTH
FRANKFORT, KY 40601

KENTUCKY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
100 MINUTEMAN PKWY
BOONE NATIONAL GUARD CENTER
FRANKFORT, KY 40601

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
LOUISVILLE CHAPTER
CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 1675
LOUISVILLE, KY 40201

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
CINCINNATI CHAPTER
720 SYCAMORE ST
CINCINNATI, OH 45202-2115

THE AMERICAN RED
BOWLING GREEN
420 CENTER STREET
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES-

Louisville National Weather Service, 6201 Theiler Lane, Louisville, KY 40229

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk/>

Paducah National Weather Service, 8250 US Hwy 60, West Paducah, KY 42086

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/>

Jackson National Weather Service, 1329 Airport Road, Jackson, KY 41339-9500

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/jkl/>

Wilmington National Weather Service, 1901 S. St. Rt. 134, Wilmington, OH 45177

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/iln/>

Charleston National Weather Service, 400 Pkwy Road, Charleston, WV 25309

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/rxl/>



what is **Project Impact**?

Project Impact is an initiative through FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency to work with local governments, local business and industry and concerned citizens to reduce the loss of property and lives from future natural disasters.

Through awareness education and preparedness, Project Impact partners with local leaders in each community to assess risk and then develop projects to help cut down on the loss of life and property.

There are currently 5 Project Impact communities in Kentucky with more to come. If you would like to find out more information about Project Impact, contact one of the cities below or log on to the FEMA Project Impact website:

<http://www.fema.gov/impact>

Ballard County Project Impact
P.O. Box 276
Wickliffe, KY 42087

Bowling Green/Warren County Project Impact
1141 State Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Henderson Project Impact
227 Third Street
Henderson, KY 42713

Lexington Project Impact
121 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lexington, KY 40507

Louisville Project Impact
601 W. Jefferson St. #113 City Hall
Louisville, KY 40202



area offices of **Emergency Management**

AREA 1-Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, Fulton, Graves, McCracken, Marshall, Calloway Counties

Bob Carrico, Area Manager

PO Box 583

Mayfield, KY 42066

270-247-9712

AREA 2-Livingston, Crittenden, Lyon, Caldwell, Hopkins, Trigg, Christian, Muhlenberg, Todd Counties

Jere McCuiston, Area Manager

1600 Woodson Dr.

Hopkinsville, KY 42240-1890

270-889-6004

AREA 3-Union, Webster, Henderson, Daviess, Hancock, McLean, Ohio Counties

Rick Cox, Area Manager

PO Box 2033

Owensboro, KY 42302

270-687-7008

AREA 4-Butler, Logan, Edmonson, Warren, Simpson, Allen, Monroe, Metcalfe, Barren, Hart Counties

Tony Keithley, Area Manager

920 Morgantown Rd, Room 136

Bowling Green, KY 42101

270-746-7843

AREA 5-Meade, Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Nelson, Washington, Marion Counties

Gene Logue, Area Manager

PO Box 911

Elizabethtown, KY 42702

270-766-5071

AREA 6-Trimble, Henry, Oldham, Shelby, Jefferson, Bullitt, Spencer Counties

Charlie Frazee, Area Manager

Fairgrounds National Guard Armory

2729 Crittenden Drive

Louisville, KY 40209-1199

502-636-0439

AREA 7-Campbell, Kenton, Boone, Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, Grant, Pendleton Counties

Rick Watkins, Area Manager

PO Box 67

Walton, KY 41094

859-485-4134

offices of **Emergency Management** continued

AREA 8-Bracken, Mason, Lewis, Robertson, Fleming, Rowan, Bath, Montgomery, Menifee, Morgan Counties

Larry Dixon, Area Manager
216 Downing Hall
Morehead State University
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-5830

AREA 9-Greenup, Carter, Boyd, Elliot, Lawrence, Martin, Johnson, Magoffin, Floyd, Pike Counties

Marcia Salyer, Area Manager
PO Box 1595
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
606-886-9157

AREA 10-Wolfe, Lee, Owsley, Breathitt, Perry, Leslie, Knott, Letcher Counties

Roy Benge, Area Manager
782 Dawahare Drive
Hazard, KY 41701-9420
606-435-6012

AREA 11-Rockcastle, Jackson, Laurel, Clay, Knox, Whitley, Bell, Harlan Counties

Richard Francis, Area Manager
PO Box 1486 National Guard Armory
Middlesboro, KY 40965
606-248-7776

AREA 12-Green, Taylor, Casey, Adair, Cumberland, Clinton, Wayne, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell Counties

Malcolm Franklin, Area Manager
PO Box 495
Somerset, KY 42502-0495
606-677-4133

AREA 13-Harrison, Scott, Fayette, Madison, Estill, Powell, Clark, Bourbon, Nicholas Counties

Logan Weller, Area Manager
PO Box 4288
Lexington, KY 40544-4288
859-246-2334

AREA 14-Franklin, Anderson, Woodford, Jessamine, Mercer, Boyle, Garrard, Lincoln Counties

Dan Hayden, Area Manager
West Park Shopping Center
755 West Broadway, Suite 213A
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
502-839-4664



Communities are **Prepared**

90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to nearly 500 deaths per year and almost \$14 billion in damage. That's why the National Weather Service has designed **StormReady**, a program aimed at arming America's communities with the communication and safety skills necessary to save lives and property.

Your entire community – from the mayor to business leaders to you – can take the lead on becoming **StormReady**. Your local National Weather Service office will work with communities to complete an application and review process.

In order for a community to officially become **StormReady**, you must:

1. establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operation center;
2. have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public;
3. create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
4. promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars;
5. develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

If you would like more information on the **StormReady** program and the official certification process, log on to the National Weather Service website at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready>

Tornado makes for an unforgettable afternoon

Relections on the Owensboro Tornado, January 3, 2000



By Steve Vied
Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer

I was in the back of our house on Wright Avenue late Monday afternoon, spending the day at home with a nasty cold, when I heard my son, Matthew, yell out that a tornado warning for Daviess County had been issued. My first thought was that a tornado in January had to be very unlikely.

Was I ever wrong.

No more than 15 minutes passed before the wind began to pick up. I stepped into our family room, which faces south, and watched through a double glass door at the pouring rain. Suddenly, the intensity of the wind increased again, and it began buffeting the door. I stepped back and within seconds I was shocked to feel rain coming into the room even though the heavy door was closed and latched. The power of the wind was forcing rain around the edges of the door, stinging my face. Never in the 20-plus years of living in our house have we ever sought shelter from a storm. But this time I told Matthew and my daughter, Emily that we needed to get into the bathroom.

We didn't have to wait long for something to happen. The lights flickered, we heard a roar and our brick house shook. I noticed I was clenching my teeth. We heard snapping, popping noises. What lasted no more than a few seconds seemed much longer.

Then it was quiet except for the sound of the rain. I walked through the house, which appeared intact, and back into the family room and looked out the door. I noticed immediately that a long section of my next door neighbor's backyard fence was lying in my yard.

"Well, Mr. Brown's fence is gone," I said to Emily, who shared my astonishment. I felt relieved, however. Just a really hard wind, I thought. Mr. Brown's fence had been knocked down before.

Meanwhile, Matthew had opened the front door. It was his shout that told me this was far from just another storm.

"The house across the street is gone!" Matthew shouted.

Instant fear gripped me. We knew the family in that house. Young children lived there. I raced to the living room and stuck my head out the door. Most of the house was leveled. I looked left and saw another house destroyed. The sudden awareness of what had happened struck me like a blow to the chest. I had seen tornado damage on television and in pictures countless times. Now I was seeing it on the street where I lived. A house not 50 feet from my mailbox, a house that I have seen every day for 20 years, was nearly destroyed, with only the bedroom side still standing.

I grabbed a heavy jacket out of the front closet, threw on a pair of tennis shoes and ran across the street, Matthew a few feet behind me. Our neighbors' house wasn't all gone, but half of it was. A huge pile of rubble lay in what had been the kitchen.

Almost frantically, Matthew and I made our way into what was left of the house, yelling, "Is anybody here? Can you hear me?" We heard nothing, but as I looked at the pile of rubble I had a feeling of dread. I pulled a few pieces of wallboard and mangled furniture away. I saw no one. Just about that time, someone came running up and said they didn't think anyone was in the house. Tom and Stacy Hess, and their children Stephanie and Tommy, were all away when their house was hit.

By then, other men in the neighborhood were racing from one demolished house to another. Matthew and I joined them, hopping over fences and wading through flooded yards. I entered one wall-less, roofless house. A small dog shivered on a sofa. I yelled for the homeowner as I pushed into the bathroom and bedrooms. I saw no one, and no one answered.

"She's over here!" I heard someone sing out from across the street, letting me know the home's occupant was safe.

"There's someone in this house," I heard a man yell. He was standing in front of a smashed house. Through the driving rain I saw the woman standing in the midst the destruction. She seemed to be OK. Three of us helped her step over the debris and into the yard.

Soon all the of the most heavily damaged houses had been checked. Police cars were beginning to arrive, and already the rain was letting up as darkness fell. I started home, but soon discovered I was walking in the wrong direction. Street signs were down at every corner and for a frustrating few seconds I had no idea which way to go. A downed sign said Latrobe Avenue. Somehow in all the rushing from house to house I had traveled about three blocks from home. I got my bearings and trudged home, soaking wet.

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Proclamation

by

Paul E. Patton
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, Severe weather affecting Kentucky can happen at any time, however it occurs most frequently during the spring months and because the Commonwealth lies within areas of mid-America known to spawn outbreaks of severe weather; and

WHEREAS, Such inclement weather requires hundreds of severe weather watches and warnings issued every year by the five offices of the National Weather Service which devote their efforts to the protection of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, As recently as last year, severe storms caused extremely heavy winds, large hail, damaging tornadoes and flooding resulting in two Presidential Disaster Declarations; and

WHEREAS, The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, joined by offices of the National Weather Service, the Kentucky Division of Water, KET - The Kentucky Network, the Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, the Louisville and Cincinnati Chapters of the American Red Cross, the Kentucky Cable Telecommunications Association and the Kentucky Department of Education have designated this month as a time for special severe weather preparedness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL E. PATTON, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as

SEVERE STORMS PREPAREDNESS MONTH STORMREADY 2001

alerting Kentucky to Weather Dangers in the Commonwealth, and urge all public and private institutions, as well as citizens throughout our Commonwealth, to take proper notice of this special observance, to give appropriate attention and to take all necessary actions to protect the citizens and property of the Commonwealth, particularly upon issuance of severe weather watches or warnings during activations of the Emergency Alert System in Kentucky.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort, this the 5th day of January, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand One and in the 209TH year of the Commonwealth.

Paul E. Patton
PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

John Y. Brown III
John Y. Brown, III
Secretary of State